

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 122035

62

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 DODE-00 NSC-05 SS-15 PM-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SP-02

L-02 PRS-01 USIE-00 PA-01 OPR-02 /054 R

DRAFTED BY EA:RHMILLER:CHG

APPROVED BY EA - MR ZURHELLEN

EA/LC - MR RIVES

AID/AA/EA:AZGARDINER

DOD/ISA:MABRAMOWITZ

NSC:WSTEARMAN

D-MR. PENDLETON

S/S -LCJOHNSTONE

LCJOHNSTONE

----- 047079

O 240108Z MAY 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL SYDNEY IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 122035

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, LA

SUBJECT: US PRESENCE IN LAOS

SYDNEY - PASS TO ASST SEC HABIB

1. WE WILL BE FACING A NUMBER OF KEY POLICY ISSUES AT AN
EARLY DATE, PARTICULARLY RELATING TO ASSISTANCE QUESTIONS.
THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL TO GET THE NUMBER OF
AMERICANS IN LAOS DOWN TO AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO RETAIN THE GREATEST POSSIBLE FLEXI-
BILITY IN DEALING WITH THESE ISSUES WITHOUT MAKING A
SIZEABLE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN LAOS POTENTIAL HOSTAGES TO
OUR ACTIONS. WE KNOW YOU ARE WORKING DAY AND NIGHT ON THIS
SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 122035

AND APPRECIATE THE DIFFICULTIES YOU FACE BUT WE BELIEVE
WE SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO REACH A MINIMUM SIZE FOR
THE MISSION AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AND IN NO EVENT LATER
THAN JUNE 5TH, I.E., THE DATE FOR COMMENCEMENT OF CON-

GRESSIONAL HEARINGS WHEN WE WILL PRESENT OUR FY 1976 AID PLANS FOR LAOS AND FACE THE QUESTION OF HOW LAOS IS TO BE TREATED IN A CONTINUING RESOLUTION ON AID AFTER JULY 1.

2. WE THEREFORE NEED YOUR PROMPT RECOMMENDATION ON THE ULTIMATE SIZE OF THE MISSION AND HOW TO ACCOMPLISH A REDUCTION TO THAT SIZE WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS WHEN HEARINGS WILL BEGIN HERE.

3. ON THE DEPARTURE OF EACH PLANELOAD OF AMERICANS LEAVING LAOS, WE NEED A LIST GIVING THE NAMES OF DEPARTEES AND THEIR AGENCY AFFILIATIONS. YOU SHOULD GIVE AT THE SAME TIME THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS REMAINING IN THE COUNTRY. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, WE ARE GIVING TO THE MEDIA TODAY (3 PM, EDT, 23 MAY) THE FIGURE OF APPROXIMATELY 734 OFFICIAL AMERICANS REMAINING. (OUR FIGURES, BASED ON VIENTIANE'S 3613, 3571 AND TELECON OF MAY 23, SHOW TRANCHES OF 35, 28 AND 159 FOR A TOTAL OF 222 OUT SINCE MAY 21ST.) MEANWHILE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE UP-DATE OF NUMBERS WITH NAMES AND AFFILIATIONS OF THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY LEFT IN ORDER TO ANSWER INCREASING FAMILY QUERIES.

INGERSOLL

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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